



Orange County District Attorney

Press Release

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Gang Member Charged With Shooting Police Officer

FULLERTON --- A Santa Ana gang member was charged today with five different charges and a variety of enhancements stemming from the July 10 shooting of Anaheim police officer Thomas Geary.

Juan Carlos Alcaraz (DOB 10-11-75) is scheduled to be arraigned today at the North Justice Center in Fullerton. He is currently being held without bail. Prosecutors will ask the court not to set any bail because of the nature of the crime. It is believed that Alcaraz is a flight risk to Mexico, where he had recently been staying.

The District Attorney's office has charged Alcaraz with the following:

1. Attempted murder with allegations that the victim is an on-duty police officer and the crime was done with premeditation and deliberation
2. Assault with a firearm on a police officer
3. A felon in possession of a gun
4. Arson of property
5. Participating in a criminal street gang crime

Enhancements were also filed of discharging a firearm during an attempted murder causing great bodily injury and committing great bodily injury.

If convicted on the charges, Alcaraz faces a maximum of 62 years, 8 months to life in prison.

Alcaraz was a prior strike because of a 1995 robbery conviction. He also has the following prior convictions:

- 1993: battery
- 1994: second degree burglary
- 1995: drunken driving and possession of marijuana
- 1996: resisting a police officer.

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The shooting occurred after Geary pulled over a sport utility vehicle on the southbound Ball Road onramp to the 57 Freeway. Geary radioed the license plate number to dispatch, then approached the passenger side of the car and was shot in the face with a large-caliber pistol. The assailant drove off in the car, which was owned by the defendant's mother. It was recovered hours later at the Savi Ranch shopping area in Yorba Linda where it had been burned.

"With recent changes in the law regarding firearms and street gangs, the penalty for these types of cold, callous crimes has been greatly enhanced," said District Attorney Tony Rackauckas. "This allows us to remove violent criminal street gang members from society for the rest of their lives. "

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